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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 7 February 14, 1956

Week ended February 11

	Page
Livestock Market Reviews	126
Livestock Market Receipts	128
Feeder and Stocker Statistics	128
Steer Sale Statistics	129
Estimated Slaughter and Meat Production	130
Slaughter at Major Centers	131
Estimated Percentage of Feeder and Stocker Cattle and Slaughter Cows in Salable Receipts	131
Cattle Prices	132
Hog Prices	133
Hog Purchase Statistics	134
Sheep and Lamb Prices	135
Wholesale Meat Trade Reviews	136
Wholesale Meat Prices	138
Wool Market Review	139

Special to this issue

Meat and Meat Food Products Processed and Canned under Federal Inspection, January 1-28, 1956.	140
Annual Livestock Inventory, Jan. 1, 1956.	142
Percentage Distribution, by Classes, of Cattle Slaughtered under Federal Inspection, Calendar Years 1954 and 1955	135

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MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

The week's cattle receipts were moderately reduced compared with the previous week. Monday's run was unusually large, however, especially at Chicago where it was largest for a February day since 1919, and prices broke sharply. Some recovery was made later as receipts were cut down, with late sales of fed steers and heifers steady to $1.00 lower than a week ago. Hog receipts were moderate compared with the movement during the peak of the winter marketing season, but demand lacked urgency due to recently curtailed slaughter operations and butchers closed steady to 75¢ lower. Outlet for slaughter lambs was fairly broad and late prices were steady to $1.00 higher.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

The week's receipts of salable cattle at 12 markets were smallest for a full operating week since early last April. But the influence of reduced receipts for the week was more than offset by the very uneven daily distribution, presence of many cattle carrying excessive weight, and a rather bearish trend on wholesale beef. Monday's receipts of 113,400 cattle at 12 markets represented about 57 percent of the five-day run which was a somewhat larger percent than usual. The most depressing single factor in the week's opening trade was the arrival of about 27,500 cattle at Chicago, fully 70 percent of the five-day run, and largest receipts for a February day there since 1919. The severe decline of 50¢-$1.50 at that point on Monday tended to undermine trade sentiment at all points, and prices dropped sharply. The combination of the exceptionally large receipts Monday, including a liberal percent of steers, and the unusually severe price drop resulted in the week's average price of steers declining to lowest levels since 1946 at several markets. Compared with a week earlier the average price at Chicago dropped $1.41, at Omaha $1.38, at Sioux City $1.27, and at St. Louis National Stock Yards $1.64.

At Chicago about 6,000 cattle were carried over from Monday, with liberal numbers going over unsold at other major midwest markets. From Tuesday on, fresh receipts were very substantially curtailed, however, and by late Wednesday or Thursday, supplies had been largely cleared. Partial price recovery, and in a few instances full recovery, was made of early declines under increased competition, with late sales of steers and heifers unevenly steady to $1.00 lower than a week earlier. Cows sold lower at a few markets but at others both cows and bulls sold at the highest levels since last summer. Vealers closed weak to $3.00 lower than a week earlier.

Most Choice and Prime steers cashed at Chicago from $17.00-23.25, a small supply of average-Prime to high-Prime mostly under 1300# $23.50-24.50; bulk Good steers $14.50-1[illegible].00. Prime 1375-1700# sold there from $17.50-21.50, majority 1550-1[illegible]# $17.50-19.00; two loads Choice near 1700# $16.00, with a load of Good 1638# steers at $14.00 at the week's low time, reflecting to some extent the price discounts for excessive weight. Good and Choice steers predominated at other midwest markets and bulked from $14.50-19.50, few high-Choice and Prime $19.50-22.50.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Stocker and feeder cattle and calf receipts at terminal markets were of seasonally small to moderate proportions. Shipments of steers to the country from the 10 markets totaled 14,168, compared with 13,894 the previous week and 14,490 a year ago. Outgo from Kansas City totaled 4,477 or nearly one-third of the 10-market total. Supplies consisted largely of Good to low-Choice 600-950# steers, although occasional shipments of Choice stockers under 600# and scattered loads of high quality fleshy steers over 850# also were on display. Recent snowstorms over a fairly wide area of the West and Southwest were probably a factor tending to

curtail marketings. Adverse weather also reduced the demand but the weather was not nearly as important a factor in narrowing the outlet as continued weakness in fat cattle prices. Trading for stockers and feeders was slow with prices frequently showing a weaker trend. However, downturns in prices of stockers and feeders usually were less severe than those often registered on fed cattle. In fact, at one or two markets where supplies were small, stockers actually showed mild strength, this principally at Southwest terminals. For the most part, prices ranged from steady to $1.00 lower, steers 750# up showing most weakness. The average cost of all steers 500# up shipped to the country during the week from 10 markets was $16.31 or $3.25 lower than a year ago, whereas the week's average cost of $18.51 on beef steers at Chicago was $6.35 below the corresponding week last year.

Good and Choice feeders 800# up sold largely from $15.00-17.00, few Choice fleshy steers up to $18.00 and some of Good quality as low as $14.50. Some Choice 1,000# steers brought $15.50, with some 951# steers of the same grade at $16.00. Meanwhile, Good and Choice yearling stock steers ranged from $16.00-21.00, few short yearlings $21.25. Several loads of Choice steer calves brought $22.00-22.50. Choice 450# heifer calves rated $18.80 but not many heifer calves exceeded $17.50.

HOGS

Factors affecting the hog trade at the week's opening were of a bearish nature and prices declined 50-75¢ or more. Prices fluctuated less sharply on subsequent days and at the close butchers sold unevenly steady to 75¢ lower than a week earlier, with the net decline at several markets 50¢ or less. Late prices on sows were unevenly 50¢ lower to $1.00 higher with price trends by weight varying considerably by sections. The main bearish influence in the week's trade was the less urgent demand which in turn was a reflection of recent breaks in wholesale fresh pork prices and also curtailed slaughter schedules compared with those in effect during the peak of the winter marketing season. Combined receipts for the week were slightly larger than a week earlier and 23% larger than a year ago. Shipping outlet was a little broader at a few points, smaller at others, but order buyers were usually bearish and their activities did not add much life to the trade. Price spreads of 50-75¢ or more on comparable weight butchers reflected the strong preference for U. S. No. 1 and 2 lots over mixed No. 2 and 3 offerings or straight No. 3 lots. Butchers grading largely No. 1 were very scarce, such offerings cashing at prices moderately above mixed No. 1 and 2 lots of the same weight. At some markets, demand shifted to butchers over 250#, thus narrowing the general price spread. The week's run at Indianapolis included about 50% new crop butchers, mostly 180-240# weights, while at St. Joseph more young hogs were offered than at any time this season, these showing exceptionally high quality and grading mostly No. 2.

Stocker and feeder pigs sold steady at South St. Paul, most Good and Choice $10.00-11.00. Prices at Sioux City were steady to 25¢ lower, bulk cashing from $10,50-10.75. A few 130-160# weights of the same grades earned $10.50 at Kansas City. At Memphis Good and Choice pigs sold steady early at $10.50-11.00,with bulk Medium and Good 90-120# feeders steady to weak at $9.50-10.00.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Receipts at the 12 markets showed little change from a week earlier, but were about 20% smaller than a year ago. The moderate to small supply of lambs sold unevenly steady to $1.00 or more higher, mainly 25-75¢ higher, despite a steady to lower price trend in wholesale dressed lamb. There was no appreciable change in prices of feeder lambs or sheep. Fat lambs over 105-110# were still discounted up to $2.00 or more, but sorting was usually rather lenient. Good to Prime wooled lambs 110# down bulked from $17.50-20,50, although at Chicago several loads brought $20.75-21.00. Most 110-120# lambs brought $17.00-20.50, with a moderate supply of 120-140# weights at $16.00-18.50. Cull lambs sold down to around $10.00. Good to Prime lambs carrying No. 1 to summer shorn pelts bulked at $17.00-19.50, a few fall and summer shorn reaching $19.75-20.00. Cull to Choice slaughter ewes again sold in a $3.00-8.00 price spread. Medium to Choice feeder lambs moved at $14.00-20.00.

Continued on page 144.

WEEKLY RECEIPTS OF SALABLE LIVESTOCK AT 12 PUBLIC MARKETS

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 12 1955	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 12 1955	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 12 1955	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 12 1955
Chicago	38,929	40,654	1,271	1,333	55,465	48,504	12,720	15,863
Cincinnati	3,868	4,429	1,077	1,082	19,139	17,444	394	500
Denver	11,032	11,926	580	769	4,399	3,562	19,461	22,984
Fort Worth	5,146	7,397	1,127	2,575	1,768	2,366	10,880	12,012
Indianapolis	8,024	9,029	1,149	1,233	55,825	51,927	3,464	3,254
Kansas City	22,202	19,245	1,311	1,374	12,529	7,267	4,673	5,070
Oklahoma City	6,442	9,393	407	1,181	2,037	2,824	767	1,920
Omaha	32,006	37,920	901	760	47,777	36,764	8,520	18,541
St. Joseph	11,902	12,757	819	639	27,806	18,714	3,788	3,662
St. Louis NSY	16,334	14,421	3,879	3,457	62,995	43,884	4,220	6,570
Sioux City	22,153	21,933	1,758	489	45,017	34,619	10,149	11,714
S. St. Paul	21,588	19,559	13,498	9,047	68,046	48,321	13,876	15,026
Total	199,626	208,663	27,777	23,939	402,803	316,196	92,912	117,116
" Feb. 4, 1956	220,840		24,553		412,363		96,581	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
Feb. 11, 1956	405,000	30,500
Feb. 4, 1956	371,500	30,200
Feb. 12, 1955	337,000	33,400

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month		12 Months
	Feb. 9 1956	Feb. 2 1956	Feb. 10 1955	Jan. 1956	Jan. 1955	Jan. - Dec. 1955
Steers - 1001# up	682	441	441	1,891	2,225	32,767
901-1000	1,920	1,479	2,010	6,095	8,611	86,644
801-900	2,618	2,151	2,890	16,183	15,367	163,061
701-800	3,037	2,746	2,894	17,268	17,526	245,933
501-700	5,911	7,077	6,255	34,768	44,818	583,739
Total steers 10 mkts.	14,168	13,894	14,490	76,205	88,547	1,112,144
Av. wts. " " "	750#	719#	738#	721#	711#	710#
Av.cost* " " "	$16.31	$16.80	$19.56	$16.64	$19.79	$18.27
" " " Chicago	16.65	17.14	20.04	16.76	19.78	19.28
" " " Ks. City	17.02	17.33	20.40	17.13	20.40	18.60
" " " Omaha	15.84	16.66	19.30	16.34	19.58	18.49
" " " S. St. Paul	14.98	15.84	17.89	15.06	17.20	16.58
" " " Sioux City	16.47	16.85	19.91	16.54	20.18	18.59
" " " Denver	15.26	16.67	20.91	17.90	22.36	19.11
" " " Ft. Worth	15.65	16.69	19.31	16.27	18.52	17.81
" " " Okla. City	16.33	16.40	18.79	16.25	18.05	17.50
" " " S. St. Joseph	15.86	16.53	19.07	16.35	19.54	17.84
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	15.84	16.41	19.22	16.09	18.38	17.45
Total calves-10 mkts.	4,235	4,113	4,138	34,140	49,189	551,959
" cows. heifers, bulls- " "	2,477	2,445	2,640	14,560	20,821	302,539

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	9 1956	Feb. 2 1956	10 1955	9 1956	Feb. 2 1956	10 1955	9 1956	Feb. 2 1956	10 1955	9 1956	Feb. 2 1956	10 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	4704	6089	1046	18.2	22.9	4.9	1255	1253	1128	21.52	22.44	32.61
Choice	14295	14763	11174	55.3	55.6	51.9	1184	1166	1139	18.51	19.80	26.41
Good	5459	4855	7827	21.1	18.3	36.3	1076	1066	1066	16.48	17.48	22.63
Com'l.	1121	718	1088	4.3	2.7	5.0	987	970	944	14.61	14.91	18.20
Utility	282	145	400	1.1	.5	1.9	926	922	876	13.06	12.82	15.10
All grades	25861	26570	21535				1163	1161	1097	18.51	19.92	24.86
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	318	421	126	2.3	2.4	.9	1224	1271	1166	21.33	21.87	31.58
Choice	6742	10677	7238	50.0	61.1	49.8	1159	1138	1119	18.06	19.37	24.97
Good	5137	5200	6190	38.1	29.7	42.5	1099	1115	1028	16.07	16.93	21.52
Com'l.	1007	913	780	7.5	5.2	5.4	1008	1019	965	13.79	14.32	17.42
Utility	279	271	210	2.1	1.6	1.4	945	1017	908	11.77	12.42	14.50
All grades	13483	17482	14544				1122	1126	1069	17.00	18.38	23.13
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	167	262	71	2.4	3.2	1.0	1280	1188	1208	20.84	22.05	31.13
Choice	3025	4633	2864	44.4	55.5	40.8	1168	1197	1136	18.51	19.68	25.11
Good	3062	2760	3707	44.9	33.1	52.9	1090	1094	1055	16.62	17.50	21.99
Com'l.	507	610	271	7.4	7.3	3.9	1022	1037	1047	14.21	14.61	17.36
Utility	59	77	98	.9	.9	1.4	973	1046	971	11.88	12.42	15.14
All grades	6820	8342	7011				1123	1150	1088	17.41	18.68	23.17
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	37	52	--	.5	.1	--	1168	1223	--	19.68	20.75	--
Choice	2871	3826	2701	41.1	46.0	41.1	1134	1065	1131	17.73	19.24	24.75
Good	3077	3866	3604	44.1	46.0	54.8	1087	1116	1034	16.21	16.98	21.80
Com'l.	761	493	267	10.9	5.9	4.1	1101	1139	884	14.49	14.84	17.69
Utility	237	172	6	3.4	2.0	--	1046	1033	961	12.51	13.05	15.00
All grades	6983	8409	6578				1107	1093	1068	16.57	17.80	22.94
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	7	25	--	.1	.4	--	1141	1096	--	21.50	22.00	--
Choice	595	1600	455	10.6	26.2	14.3	1069	1087	1063	17.95	19.13	25.43
Good	3899	3527	1974	69.3	57.6	62.2	1025	1036	1026	16.03	17.16	22.78
Com'l.	1004	858	676	17.9	14.0	21.3	981	968	961	13.85	15.49	19.68
Utility	118	109	68	2.1	1.8	2.2	945	907	851	12.12	13.32	15.27
All grades	5623	6119	3173				1020	1038	1014	15.80	17.44	22.42
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice	1593	2615	2491	32.3	42.7	42.7	1149	1110	1114	17.63	18.84	24.76
Good	2447	2903	2775	49.7	47.4	47.5	1099	1103	1018	16.16	16.59	21.18
Com'l.	795	551	510	16.1	9.0	8.7	1029	1028	980	13.92	14.17	17.09
Utility	93	60	61	1.9	.9	1.1	928	942	869	11.89	12.52	14.25
All grades	4928	6129	5837				1101	1097	1054	16.25	17.32	22.40

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Feb. 9 1956	Feb. 2 1956	10 1955	Feb. 9 1956	Feb. 2 1956	10 1955	Feb. 9 1956	Feb. 2 1956	10 1955	Feb. 9 1956	Feb. 2 1956	10 1955
DENVER 1/												
Prime	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice	1768	2901	1915	64.3	71.6	68.9	1145	1173	1092	18.92	19.44	25.47
Good	895	1112	836	32.5	27.4	30.1	1068	1126	1049	16.44	17.80	23.90
Com'l.	76	42	12	2.8	1.0	.4	930	1175	1192	13.05	13.75	16.69
Utility	12	--	16	.4	--	.6	895	--	834	11.46	--	14.00
All grades	2751	4055	2779				1113	1160	1078	17.98	18.94	24.92

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	mil. lb.	mil. lb.
Feb. 11, 1956	350	199.2	135	15.3	1,367	181.0	276	13.5	409.0	49.2
Feb. 4, 1956	363	203.6	130	14.6	1,371	179.9	307	15.4	413.5	49.4
Jan. 28, 1956 1/	378	212.1	130	14.6	1,323	173.6	321	15.4	415.7	48.2
Feb. 12, 1955	331	178.6	122	13.4	1,135	154.3	282	13.9	360.2	43.2
Percentage change from:										
Feb. 4, 1956	-4	-2	+4	+5	0	+1	-10	-12	-1	0
Feb. 12, 1955	+6	+12	+11	+14	+20	+17	-2	-3	+14	+14

Week ended	Average weights (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed 2/	Live	Dressed	
Feb. 11, 1956	1,025	569	205	113	234	132	103	49	15.4
Feb. 4, 1956	1,020	561	205	112	236	131	102	50	15.3
Jan. 28, 1956	1,020	561	205	112	236	131	100	48	15.3
Feb. 12, 1955	986	540	199	110	240	136	103	49	15.9

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 12 1955	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 12 1955	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 12 1955	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 12 1955
Boston, New York City Area	12,908	10,846	10,098	10,533	58,446	51,029	43,804	47,553
Baltimore, Philadelphia	7,836	7,692	1,063	1,147	28,028	24,754	1,972	1,926
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	17,384	16,299	6,266	5,063	107,466	89,311	14,207	12,846
Chicago Area	24,339	25,252	6,499	7,080	57,131	64,194	5,298	6,513
St. Paul-Wis Areas	29,696	27,961	35,492	28,530	124,919	96,926	16,346	14,571
St. Louis Area	13,695	12,698	3,676	5,016	83,837	69,489	6,377	7,760
Sioux City	10,643	8,536	82	10	22,744	20,666	4,732	4,954
Omaha Area	31,041	30,802	704	698	85,447	63,551	17,811	20,031
Kansas City	14,991	14,339	2,368	2,994	41,918	25,754	9,030	10,003
Iowa-So. Minnesota	27,973	26,668	14,717	11,433	315,287	257,663	33,154	35,024
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	8,146	8,944	7,083	5,988	50,140	43,584	Not available.	
Georgia-Alabama Area	6,261	6,519	2,570	2,977	29,148	23,761	--	--
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	15,914	16,571	2,806	3,027	57,899	47,931	12,400	14,950
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	10,317	13,822	4,239	5,164	27,653	18,519	12,363	12,233
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	17,151	15,474	1,132	1,041	15,957	16,577	22,958	20,749
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	29,744	24,481	3,176	2,726	35,083	31,881	35,585	34,341
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	7,571	6,762	529	373	18,529	12,932	4,364	4,019
Total	285,610	273,666	102,500	93,800	1,159,632	958,522	240,401	247,473
Accumulation to date	1,844,144	1,754,474	618,169	616,708	7,549,567	6,428,132	1,554,274	1,505,419

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St. Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	Denver	Fort Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
Feeders and stockers													
Feb. 10, 1956	3	28	8	9	5	17	8	1	8	15	50	22	35
Feb. 3, 1956	2	25	6	10	5	16	7	2	8	20	50	18	40
Feb. 11, 1955	3	23	9	14	4	16	8	7	5	35	50	34	50
Slaughter cows													
Feb. 10, 1956	9	8	13	14	20	12	37	15	15	10	10	26	12
Feb. 3, 1956	8	8	11	13	17	11	33	16	15	20	12	21	18
Feb. 11, 1955	12	9	11	16	21	10	30	25	30	11	15	19	25

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	11 1956	Feb. 4 1956	12 1955	11 1956	Feb. 4 1956	12 1955	11 1956	Feb. 4 1956	12 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers -									
Prime 900-1100#	23.05	23.68	31.95	21.25	22.40	30.05	21.92	22.32	30.08
1100-1300	22.55	23.12	33.45	20.75	21.78	30.30	21.48	21.95	31.65
Choice 900-1100	19.95	20.80	28.22	18.95	19.92	25.35	19.30	19.85	26.25
1100-1300	19.25	20.05	28.10	18.40	19.08	25.35	19.05	19.52	26.22
Good 900-1100	17.02	17.78	22.12	16.20	16.68	20.58	16.05	16.70	21.20
Com'l. All wts.	14.78	15.02	18.00	14.45	14.90	17.15	13.78	14.18	17.50
Heifers -									
Prime 600-800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	18.55	19.28	24.25	18.18	19.18	22.68	18.35	18.70	23.10
Good 500-900	16.00	16.42	20.52	15.94	16.48	18.55	15.85	16.17	18.59
Com'l. All wts.	13.72	13.78	16.90	13.88	14.40	15.00	13.42	13.60	14.55
Cows - All weights									
Commercial	12.72	12.72	13.42	12.45	12.42	12.70	12.12	12.12	12.72
Utility	11.58	11.42	11.72	11.45	11.35	11.70	10.88	10.88	11.28
Canner & Cutter	10.38	10.25	10.22	10.22	10.16	9.95	9.50	9.50	9.52
Bulls - All weights -									
Good	13.55	13.10	13.10	--	--	--	13.12	13.08	11.75
Utility & Commercial	15.45	15.16	15.05	13.50	13.50	13.58	13.74	13.68	13.25
Vealers - All weights -									
Choice & Prime	28.00	29.80	29.00	24.70	25.70	24.50	22.10	21.50	23.00
Com'l. & Good	22.00	24.00	22.20	18.70	19.80	19.00	16.80	16.50	17.50
Calves - 500# down									
Choice & Prime	19.50	20.50	22.50	16.85	17.75	17.25	18.00	17.75	20.50
Com'l. & Good	15.00	15.50	17.00	13.85	14.75	14.25	14.00	14.00	16.00
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers -									
Choice 500-800#	19.35	20.00	22.25	18.75	19.62	22.50	19.00	19.38	22.50
Good " "	16.60	17.50	19.75	17.38	18.00	20.00	17.12	17.50	20.00
Medium 500-1000	14.50	14.75	17.00	15.00	15.25	17.25	14.62	14.88	17.25
Heifers -									
Choice 500-750	16.50	17.00	18.25	16.50	17.00	19.00	16.50	16.62	18.00
Med. & Gd. " "	13.50	13.75	15.25	14.00	14.25	15.50	13.50	13.62	14.25
Cows - All weights -									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	11.00	11.00	11.25	10.88	10.88	10.75
Calves - 300-500# -									
Steers -									
Good & Choice	20.50	20.75	22.00	19.50	20.00	21.50	20.50	20.75	22.00
Heifers -									
Good & Choice	17.00	17.25	18.50	17.00	17.25	18.50	17.00	17.12	18.25

HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
		11 1956	Feb. 4 1956	12 1955	11 1956	Feb. 4 1956	12 1955	11 1956	Feb. 4 1956	12 1955
Barrows and gilts -										
U.S.No.1 2 & 3	160-180#	12.65	13.60	16.50	10.69	11.78	15.32	12.45	13.30	16.90
	180-200	13.22	14.38	17.42	12.17	13.23	16.65	13.25	14.45	17.40
	200-220	13.25	14.34	17.30	12.55	13.63	16.95	13.22	14.42	17.40
	220-240	13.10	14.15	17.08	12.23	13.28	16.57	12.92	14.22	17.05
	240-270	12.50	13.40	16.35	11.67	12.71	15.96	12.50	13.62	16.28
	270-300	12.06	12.85	15.78	11.07	12.13	15.21	11.65	12.88	15.65
Sows -										
	300-330#	11.60	11.85	15.15	10.60	11.62	14.68	11.12	11.20	15.08
	360-400	11.10	11.22	14.98	10.10	11.12	14.01	10.55	10.55	14.75
	450-550	10.35	10.60	13.95	9.20	10.38	12.86	9.52	9.68	14.18
Pigs (stocker and feeder)-										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
Barrows and gilts -										
U.S.No.1 2 & 3	160-180#	--	--	--	12.52	13.85	17.45	--	--	--
	180-200	13.00	14.05	17.48	13.25	14.38	17.50	12.50	14.00	--
	200-220	13.00	14.05	17.48	13.18	14.32	17.37	12.85	14.14	17.12
	220-240	13.00	14.05	17.18	12.92	14.08	16.96	12.80	14.05	17.02
	240-270	12.32	13.55	16.62	12.41	13.48	16.28	12.30	13.62	16.45
	270-300	11.60	12.90	15.80	11.70	12.70	15.81	11.60	12.92	15.58
Sows -										
	300-330#	10.98	11.48	--	11.05	11.42	15.40	11.08	11.98	14.90
	360-400	10.98	11.48	14.75	10.68	11.05	15.02	10.75	11.58	14.65
	450-550	9.90	10.42	14.15	9.95	10.45	14.15	9.88	10.68	13.88
Pigs (stocker & feeder)-										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
Barrows and gilts -										
U.S.No.1 2 & 3	160-180#	12.05	13.18	17.05	13.81	14.81	18.44	14.22	15.22	18.88
	180-200	13.12	14.10	17.10	14.22	15.20	18.47	14.91	15.97	19.16
	200-220	13.12	14.10	17.00	14.22	15.20	18.47	14.91	15.97	19.16
	220-240	12.95	13.98	16.60	13.94	14.94	18.16	14.50	15.69	18.78
	240-270	12.05	13.40	15.80	13.31	14.41	17.47	13.38	14.56	17.94
	270-300	11.42	--	15.05	12.19	13.19	16.72	13.00	14.19	17.25
Sows -										
	300-330#	10.52	11.42	14.42	10.06	11.12	15.50	12.12	13.19	16.25
	360-400	10.02	11.12	13.80	10.06	11.12	15.50	11.38	12.19	15.69
	450-550	9.52	10.32	12.92	8.78	10.25	13.50	10.00	11.28	14.69
Pigs (stocker & feeder)-										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	10.45	10.65	17.00	--	--	--	--	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

	Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8-mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -					Dollars per 100 pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 11,1956	12.56	12.77	12.80	12.34	12.26	12.78	12.29	12.93	12.56
	Feb. 4,1956	13.60	13.89	13.87	13.68	13.45	13.79	13.28	14.04	13.66
	Feb. 12,1955	16.35	16.98	16.92	16.40	16.13	16.80	16.29	16.85	16.54
Sows	Feb. 11,1956	10.73	10.36	10.50	10.39	10.23	10.54	10.09	9.91	10.33
	Feb. 4,1956	10.84	10.98	10.74	11.07	11.09	10.92	11.02	10.14	10.81
	Feb. 12,1955	14.50	14.52	14.30	14.21	14.06	14.53	13.74	14.23	14.28
AVERAGE WEIGHT -					Pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 11,1956	240	221	223	231	242	221	224	223	228
	Feb. 4,1956	239	222	226	235	238	224	225	226	229
	Feb. 12,1955	251	223	227	252	255	231	231	228	237
Sows	Feb. 11,1956	438	404	431	411	428	413	406	447	423
	Feb. 4,1956	444	418	435	427	413	400	412	456	428
	Feb. 12,1955	444	419	445	455	439	417	428	457	441
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 11,1956	47296	56284	11417	42742	39984	24667	60871	51656	334917
	Feb. 4,1956	46660	48560	10238	47804	39837	30378	66339	51786	341602
	Feb. 12,1955	40348	39119	6625	32714	30719	17399	43524	48632	259080
Sows	Feb. 11,1956	3964	3490	670	2502	1613	1675	2575	3408	19897
	Feb. 4,1956	4054	3019	490	2816	1385	1969	3169	3523	20425
	Feb. 12,1955	2711	1741	253	1619	879	660	1397	2291	11551
SOWS					Percentage of total					
	Feb. 11,1956	8	6	6	6	4	6	4	6	6
	Feb. 4,1956	8	6	5	6	3	6	5	6	6
	Feb. 12,1955	6	4	4	5	3	4	3	4	4

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Feb. 11, 1956	$15.40	$13.22	+$2.18
Feb. 4, 1956	16.28	14.38	+ 1.90
Feb. 12, 1955	18.78	17.42	+ 1.36

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs, 180-200# wt.Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Feb. 11, 1956	12.56	124.6	10.1
Feb. 4, 1956	13.60	125.5	10.8
Feb. 12, 1955	16.35	149.9	10.9

1/ Simple average price.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS
In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS - 110# down (WOOLED) -								
Choice and Prime	Feb. 11, 1956	20.48	19.40	18.65	--	19.75	--	20.00
	Feb. 4, 1956	20.25	19.22	19.35	--	19.40	--	20.00
	Feb. 12, 1955	22.00	21.25	20.85	--	20.98	--	21.00
Good and Choice	Feb. 11, 1956	19.78	18.40	17.68	17.88	18.78	17.62	--
	Feb. 4, 1956	19.50	18.20	18.42	17.90	18.58	17.88	--
	Feb. 12, 1955	21.10	20.52	20.30	19.85*	19.65	19.50	20.00
EWES (WOOLED) -								
Good and Choice	Feb. 11, 1956	7.25	5.45	4.62	--	8.25	6.50	--
	Feb. 4, 1956	7.18	4.90	4.62	--	7.75	6.50	--
	Feb. 12, 1955	8.00	8.00	7.00	--	8.12	--	10.50
Cull and Utility	Feb. 11, 1956	5.50	4.70	3.62	--	6.00	4.25	--
	Feb. 4, 1956	5.45	3.90	3.62	--	5.50	4.25	--
	Feb. 12, 1955	6.75	6.45	5.50	--	5.75	--	6.00
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	Feb. 11, 1956	--	--	--	17.00	18.24	--	--
	Feb. 4, 1956	--	17.88	--	16.90	17.98	--	--
	Feb. 12, 1955	--	20.75	--	19.00	19.75	--	--

*Shorn basis.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION, BY CLASSES, OF CATTLE SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

Region	Steers		Heifers		Cows		Bulls and Stags		Canners & Cutters all classes	
	Year		Year		Year		Year		Year	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
N. Atlantic States.....	58.3	57.9	1.9	1.9	37.6	37.3	2.2	2.9	23.8	24.0
S. Atlantic States.....	35.4	37.8	3.2	2.3	52.6	47.9	8.8	12.0	40.2	36.3
N.C. States - Eastern..	54.4	52.3	6.8	6.3	36.7	39.2	2.1	2.2	18.9	19.5
N.C. States - N.Western	52.4	56.8	16.1	15.1	29.7	26.5	1.8	1.6	13.5	11.8
N.C. States - S.Western	55.1	54.7	15.3	14.2	28.5	29.5	1.1	1.6	14.1	16.0
S. Central States.....	24.3	24.7	7.8	9.1	64.0	61.2	3.9	5.0	41.0	40.0
Mountain States.....	26.8	33.9	49.0	46.2	22.5	17.7	1.7	2.2	10.0	7.6
Pacific States.....	54.7	57.4	17.1	16.1	26.3	24.2	1.9	2.3	10.2	9.6

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Lower prices were posted for most Western dressed fresh meats. Normal supplies generally proved excessive as demand was rather narrow throughout. Movement was further retarded by a fair volume of steer beef and lamb carried from the previous week. Purchasers operated cautiously and presented a wait-and-see attitude for the most part. Price trends were weak to mostly lower as the result of concerted price pressure at most local wholesale centers. Steer beef, lamb and fresh pork showed declines, as did cow beef, veal and calf despite the fact that wholesalers were slow in giving ground. Compared with the previous week: Steer beef steady to $3.50 lower; cow beef generally weak; veal steady to $2.00 lower; calf mostly steady to $1.00 lower; lamb steady to $4.00 off; pork loins $5.00-6.50 lower, other fresh pork cuts steady to $2.00 higher.

Demand for steer carcasses and wholesale cuts was narrow. Prime offerings were in the minority and sold barely steady as these attracted most buyer interest. Progressive downturns, however, were shown on carcasses and cuts grading Choice and below, with hindquarters and related cuts depressed most. Sales of cow beef were mostly on the weak side. Veal and calf held steady early, but demand narrowed toward the close and lower price revisions were necessary. Lamb receipts were in excess of current demand, influencing a weaker trend. Fresh pork prices carried a weak undertone from the outset, which terminated in downturns, particularly on 8-12# fresh loins.

Prime 600-800# steer beef sold at $36.00-40.00, Choice 600-700# $33.00-35.00, 700-800# $31.00-33.00; Prime veal $44.00-50.00, Choice $38.00-44.00, Good $30.00-37.00; Choice calf under 200# $33.00-37.00, Good $32.00-34.00, Commercial $25.00-30.00. Choice and Prime lamb under 45# brought $36.00-37.00, 45-55# $34.00-36.00, 55# up $33.00 down; Good lamb 35-45# $33.00-35.00, 45# up $30.00-33.00. Eight to 12# pork loins sold at $32.50-37.00, 12-16# $33.00-34.00; Boston butts $29.00-32.00, spareribs $30.00-34.00.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Volume of locally dressed fresh meats was generally in excess of current inquiry. Trade on most sessions was slow, with best outlet on Monday. Slaughter figures as a whole showed relatively little change. Unsettled trade conditions and irregular prices prevailed on steer beef and lamb. Prices on veal hindsaddles were easier and the undertone on fresh pork was weak. Demand for kosher meat was mostly fair to slow, kosher beef selling at weak prices, while veal and lamb held mostly steady, instances strong on lamb late.

Prime steer offerings were in the minority and movement of these was rather dependable. Selling, otherwise, was usually a forced affair, and wholesalers revised prices downward slightly to sharply on offerings grading Choice and below to effect clearance. Most pronounced declines were on Choice hindquarters. Selected lots of kosher steer forequarters and wholesale cuts sold fully steady. However, the practical top was off about $1.00 and selling averages slightly lower.

Veal and calf sellers encountered severe price pressure as purchases were held to a minimum. Early sales were steady, but trade lacked stability and subsequent weakness developed. A general lack of buyer interest pervaded lamb trading. Selected lots, however, scaling around 45# down, moved rather freely at barely steady prices, but trend otherwise was lower for both carcasses and wholesale cuts. Prices of kosher lamb foresaddles averaged mostly steady, with some strength toward the close.

Locally dressed primal fresh pork cuts were under considerable pressure as urgency was lacking on the part of retailers. Prices generally favored the weak side, with fresh loins easing off progressively and closing around $3.00-4.00 lower. Other fresh pork cuts held about steady, although trade was somewhat uneven.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Dressed beef supplies consisted mainly of Good and Choice grades. Veal supply was moderate early but increased by midweek. Volume of lamb grading Choice and below weighing 55# or heavier, was fully normal, with Prime offerings and weights under 50# limited. Fresh pork cuts were usually adequate for demand. Prime beef was in good demand, but beef trade otherwise was dull. Good and Choice ribs and loins accumulated in most coolers and sellers discounted price in an effort to stimulate movement, particularly on lighterweight loins, and heavierweight ribs. In beef cuts, rounds moved most freely. Trade on lamb and veal carcasses was slow, and lamb sellers were unable to improve prices despite higher replacement costs. Demand for fresh pork cuts was limited on early days and loin prices declined daily until Wednesday, but turned higher toward the close. Prices on Boston butts and spareribs held mostly steady. Only fair clearances at the wholesale level are in prospect, with indications of a fairly large carryover of beef ribs and loins. Compared to last Thursday: Prime beef nominally steady, other grades mostly 50¢ to $1.50 lower; veal and lamb steady; pork loins 8-16# $2.00-5.00 lower; Boston butts 4-8# and spareribs 3# down steady.

Choice and Prime squarecut beef chucks sold at $28.00-30.00, comparable rounds $39.00-43.00; Prime loins $79.00-83.00, Choice $50.00-60.00; Prime ribs $55.00-58.00, Choice $37.00-41.00; Choice and Prime kosher style beef chucks $28.00-30.00. Sales of lamb hindsaddles were completed at $46.00-52.00, legs $42.00-48.00, loins $50.00-58.00, and hotel ribs $48.00-53.00. Pork loins 8-12# sold at $33.00-36.00, 12-16# $30.50-34.00; Boston butts $25.50-30.00; spareribs $27.50-32.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Supplies of fresh meats with few exceptions were fairly liberal at all points on the West Coast. Choice steer carcasses under 600# were in moderate supply but were fully adequate while veal carcasses were out of stock at Los Angeles and limited at San Francisco. Coolers were liberally supplied and an above-normal carryover was anticipated. There was also a considerable backlog of loins and ribs in the Los Angeles area with several packers and breakers shipping this product to other markets. Trading continued slow on most classes at the wholesale level, although veal was in good demand at San Francisco due to the short supply. Prices were generally under pressure at all points. Compared to the previous Friday: All beef weak, instances 50¢-$1.00 lower; veal mostly steady in the Northwest and $2.00 higher at San Francisco; lamb steady to $2.00 lower, most decline at Los Angeles on weights over 55#; mutton about steady; fresh pork loins $4.00-7.00 lower; other fresh pork steady to weak, except fresh skinned hams $3.00 higher at Los Angeles and shoulders $2.00 lower in the Northwest; smoked skinned hams $1.00-2.00 higher at Los Angeles; other smoked meats and lard mostly steady.

Choice steer carcasses under 700# sold mostly from $30.00-34.00, few $35.00 at San Francisco; 700-800# $29.00-31.00; Good 500-700# $27.00-31.00, few to $33.00 at San Francisco; Commercial $25.00-30.00. Commercial cow beef brought mostly $23.00-25.00, few $26.00 at San Francisco and softboned sparingly to $28.00; mature Utility $21.00-25.00; Canner and Cutter $18.00-22.00.

Good and Choice veal carcasses under 150# brought mostly $40.00-48.00; same grades calf to 300# $31.00-40.00; Commercial, all weights, $29.00-33.00. Choice and Prime lamb under 55# cashed from $36.00-41.00, over 55# $34.00-39.00; Good, all weights, $32.00-38.00. Fresh pork loins under 16# brought $34.00-43.00; shoulders under 16# $22.00-32.00; Boston butts under 8# $29.00-38.00; spareribs 3# down $32.00-40.00; smoked skinned hams under 18# $42.00-52.00, the higher price at San Francisco; slab bacon under 10# $30.00-42.00; sliced 1# packages of bacon $36.00-45.00; lard in 1# cartons $13.50-17.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
	11 1956	Feb. 4 1956	12 1955	11 1956	Feb. 4 1956	12 1955	11 1956	Feb. 4 1956	12 1955
Beef –									
Steer –									
Prime 600–700#	39.00	39.00	--	37.50	37.50	52.75	--	--	--
700–800	37.00	37.00	50.00	37.50	37.50	52.75	--	--	--
Choice 500–600	--	--	--	33.15	35.00	41.75	34.00	33.50	41.00
600–700	34.50	37.25	45.50	33.15	35.00	42.85	32.00	32.00	39.75
Good 350–600	30.00	31.50	40.20	29.10	29.80	36.00	31.25	31.25	39.38
Com'l. " "	28.00	29.50	34.40	27.20	27.65	32.00	28.00	28.00	35.50
Cow, all wts. –									
Commercial	26.00	26.00	29.00	--	--	--	26.00	26.00	27.50
Utility	23.00	23.00	24.50	--	--	--	22.50	22.50	24.00
Veal –									
Prime 80–110#	48.50	47.70	49.30	45.50	44.90	48.40	--	--	--
Choice " "	43.00	42.80	44.80	43.00	41.80	45.90	--	--	--
Good " "	35.60	35.90	39.30	38.00	37.40	41.00	44.20	43.00	45.00
Lamb –									
Prime 40–50#	35.20	37.40	42.50	35.50	36.35	42.90	39.00	39.00	42.00
50–60	32.40	34.40	43.00	32.50	33.35	41.40	37.00	37.00	40.50
Choice 40–50	35.20	38.20	41.00	35.50	36.35	41.90	38.00	38.00	42.00
50–60	32.40	34.90	41.00	32.50	33.35	39.30	36.00	36.00	40.00
Good all wts.	32.50	34.60	39.00	33.00	33.40	38.40	36.50	36.50	38.00
Pork – Fresh –									
Loins 8–10# av.	35.35	41.60	41.00	33.55	39.55	40.60	40.00	45.30	49.50
10–12 "	35.35	41.60	41.00	33.55	39.55	40.60	40.00	46.00	46.50
12–16 "	34.20	40.60	38.70	32.00	38.95	38.70	40.00	46.00	43.50
Butts 4–8 "	30.50	28.50	36.50	27.80	27.95	33.00	35.00	35.00	39.50
Pork – Cured –									
Hams, smk., skd. –									
12–16# av.	44.50	44.50	47.00	48.10	47.45	49.40	50.00	50.00	52.50
16–18 "	41.00	41.50	43.50	45.55	44.40	46.05	47.50	47.50	48.80
18–20 "	--	--	--	43.80	43.05	45.10	--	--	--
Bacon, smk., slab –									
6–8# av.	--	--	--	34.25	35.25	53.40	40.00	40.00	57.50
8–10 "	34.50	33.50	48.00	33.15	33.65	50.10	37.00	37.00	52.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.	38.00	39.00	50.00	39.30	39.70	54.60	42.50	42.50	56.50
Picnics, smoked –									
4–8# av.	24.00	23.00	33.00	29.70	29.90	35.50	30.00	30.00	35.00
Backs, D. S. –									
16–20# av.	15.00	16.00	13.50	11.50	11.50	12.00	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –									
Refined	16.25	16.50	15.50	14.45	14.25	15.90	16.50	16.50	18.50
Substitutes	--	--	--	25.00	25.00	27.50	--	--	--

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

Approximately fifteen cars of various greasy domestic worsted wools were turned in the Boston market but conditions remained about the same compared to the previous week. Prices held firm and about unchanged. The supply of free domestic combing wools was limited as many dealers had little to offer. There was some trading among dealers but most purchases were made by integrated mills and top-makers.

Demand for scoured wools continued about the same as a week earlier. Principal call was for 56s and finer grades which sold at firm prices.

The strike of waterfront workers in Australia continued and as a result, all sales were suspended until the strike is settled. There were no auctions in New Zealand during the week. Sales will resume at Christchurch on February 3. Offerings from New Zealand showed a weaker tone, particularly for coarse wools while prices in South Africa continued very strong under good general competition. Montevideo prices were stronger while prices at Buenos Aires were very firm. Trading in South America was slow.

Fleece Wools - Graded 56/58s good French combing and staple fleece wool sold around $1.1[illegible] while 50/54s staple wool brought $1.04 clean and graded 56/58s clothing fleeces moved at 96¢. Light shrinking medium grade fleece reject wool sold at 47¢ in the grease.

Territory Wools - Graded 64s good French combing and staple territory wool sold at $1.30 clean basis, while graded 56/58s brought from $1.13-1.15, and 50/54s staple wool moved at $1.08 and $1.09. Medium grade territory lambs wool sold at 49¢ in the grease while an inferior graded California 64s clothing wool brought $1.10 clean basis.

Texas Wools - Original bag 12 months Texas wool, bulk average French combing length sold at $1.35 clean basis.

Mohair - Original bag adult mohair sold in Texas at 84¢. Recent contracting of the spring clip had subsided while trade in the Boston market was dormant.

Sales of CCC Wools - The Commodity Credit Corporation announced on February 9, 1956 that approximately 3,033,000 pounds of C.C.C. owned wool, from bids received on a total of about 14,500,000 pounds, were sold. The principal grades, quantity and sales price ranges (before discounts, if any) follow:

	Pounds	Price Range
Graded territory fine staple and good French	146,370	$1.34 -1.371
" " 1/2 blood, staple and good French	742,283	1.25 -1.305
" " 3/8s " " " " "	528,078	1.165-1.201
" " 1/4 " " " " "50/54s	120,100	1.101-1.12
" " 1/4 " " " " "48/50s	188,534	1.07 -1.102
O. B. territory, average and good French	64,888	1.282-1.332
" " Texas, average and good French	233,070	1.37 -1.377
Graded fleece fine average and good French	39,012	1.275
" " 3/8s blood, staple and good French	356,304	1.105-1.112
" " 1/4 " " " " " 48/50s	112,056	1.05 -1.051

Foreign Wools - Turnover of spot foreign wools was slow. Cabled reports from South Africa at week's end showed a very strong market with most short wools sold out. Firm offerings for long combing wools follow: Type 7 at $1.35; 47 at $1.29 and 51 at $1.36. Offerings based on clean U. S. yields, in bond. Asking prices for super skirted Montevideo fleeces follow: 60s and 58/60s at 66½¢ and 56s at 66-1/4¢, grease basis, in bond. Buenos Aires November second clip 36/40s at 87¢; March wools at 86½¢; 36/40s lambs wool at 86¢ and 5s fleeces at 87¢; all clean fibers present, in bond.

Carpet Wools - The movement of carpet wools was very slow. A spot lot of India yellow vicaneer sold at 84¢ clean fibers present.

MEATS AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS PREPARED AND PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

Product	Week ended Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 21 1956	Jan. 28 1956
	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#
Placed in cure -				
Beef	2,636	3,046	3,308	3,166
Pork	68,198	85,411	79,047	70,306
Other	23	13	30	22
Smoked and/or dried -				
Beef	948	993	994	1,353
Pork	46,213	55,310	52,379	53,082
Cooked meat -				
Beef	1,276	1,503	1,393	1,435
Pork	5,179	5,145	5,204	5,287
Other	66	76	69	69
Sausage -				
Fresh finished	4,792	6,081	5,838	5,683
To be dried or semi-dried	2,308	2,614	2,660	2,793
Franks, wieners	9,600	11,737	11,023	11,055
Other, smoked or cooked	9,745	11,846	11,160	11,302
Loaf, head cheese, chili, jellied products	3,037	3,990	3,694	3,909
Steaks, chops, roasts	12,184	14,521	13,447	13,791
Bouillon cubes, extract	6	57	72	7
Sliced bacon	17,623	21,998	20,280	20,957
Sliced, other	2,519	3,030	3,054	3,047
Hamburger	2,940	3,919	4,045	4,385
Miscellaneous meat product	1,514	1,762	1,842	1,928
Lard, rendered	48,789	62,160	55,767	45,845
Lard, refined	33,021	41,910	40,299	33,947
Oleo stock	2,006	2,360	2,341	2,359
Edible tallow	3,006	3,786	3,615	3,580
Rendered pork fat -				
Rendered	2,504	2,909	2,652	2,329
Refined	1,293	1,455	1,510	1,497
Compound containing animal fat	7,285	10,552	13,315	12,838
Oleomargarine " " "	740	1,068	1,046	1,074
Canned product (for civilian use and Dept. of Defense)	43,873	57,133	53,525	55,552
Total 1/	333,324	416,384	393,610	372,599

1/ This figure represents "inspection pounds" as some of the products may have been inspected and recorded more than once due to having been subjected to more than one distinct processing treatment, such as curing first, then canning.

2/ Included with "Luncheon meat" prior to March 6.

MEAT AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS PREPARED AND PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION - Continued

Product	Week ended - 1956							
	Jan. 7		Jan. 14		Jan. 21		Jan. 28	
	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.
	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#
Canned product (For civilian use only)								
Luncheon meat	3,806	3,283	4,982	3,733	5,016	3,702	4,926	3,019
Canned hams	5,264	74	6,661	96	6,835	135	7,068	155
Corned beef hash	16	849	67	1,265	111	1,933	89	1,678
Chili con carne	183	2,974	143	3,557	171	2,636	227	4,159
Viennas	59	897	30	1,110	44	1,103	56	993
Franks, wieners in brine	—	79	13	48	—	71	1	72
Deviled ham	—	176	—	229	—	270	—	259
Other potted or deviled meat food products	—	681	—	902	—	1,142	—	1,056
Tamales	74	509	76	1,162	46	858	73	923
Sliced dried beef	4	68	4	101	5	99	7	106
Chopped beef 2/	—	341	—	273	11	217	—	217
Meat stew (all products)	3	1,159	3	2,539	36	2,412	24	2,446
Spaghetti meat products	45	1,645	59	2,086	22	1,341	46	1,397
Tongue (other than pickled)	14	73	20	30	17	40	38	41
Vinegar pickled products	229	321	263	421	236	380	249	377
Bulk sausage	—	322	—	123	—	164	—	68
Hamburger, rstd. or corned beef, meat and gravy	13	1,179	19	1,314	83	2,561	136	2,559
Soups	765	11,020	390	16,622	613	12,917	418	12,750
Sausage in oil	77	37	30	96	53	96	28	110
Tripe	—	109	—	116	—	129	--	77
Brains	—	52	—	51	—	63	—	49
Canned loins and picnics	583	15	829	35	815	26	792	5
All other with meat and/or meat byproducts -								
20% or more	49	1,112	80	1,945	105	1,453	65	2,167
Less than 20%	132	4,802	79	4,240	152	4,390	127	5,499
Total	11,314	31,776	13,748	42,094	14,373	38,138	14,371	40,181

Note: See footnote at bottom of page 140.

ANNUAL LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY INVENTORY - JANUARY 1, 1956

(Following Summary Based on the Complete Report Released by the Crop Reporting Board, AMS, February 13, 1956)

Cattle numbers increased slightly during 1955, reaching a new high of 97.5 million head. Beef cows set a new record high, but milk cows declined 1 percent to the second lowest inventory since 1930. Hog numbers were 9 percent above January 1, 1955. Inventories of all sheep declined 1 percent, while horses and mules declined 8 percent during 1955. Chickens and turkeys were down 2 and 1 percent, respectively, from a year earlier. The value of livestock and poultry on January 1, 1956 was down 4 percent from 1955. Hogs accounted for the largest decrease in value, while all sheep showed a slight decline. Values of cattle, horses and mules, chickens and turkeys were above a year earlier.

Indications are that livestock and poultry production will continue at a high level in 1956. Intentions for spring farrowing are down 2 percent but there were 9 percent more hogs on farms January 1. The number of cows and heifers on farms is about equal to the previous year, promising another large calf crop. The record number of beef cattle on farms January 1 indicates beef production will be high again in 1956.

Commercial slaughter of cattle and calves in 1955 totaled 38.1 million head, compared with 37.8 million head in 1954. Preliminary indications point to a record high calf crop in 1955. Imports of cattle and calves from Canada during the first 11 months of 1955 totaled 64,000 head compared with nearly 80,000 head in the same period in 1954. Imports from Mexico totaled 252,000 head in 1955. No imports were received from Mexico during 1954 when the hoof and mouth disease quarantine was in effect. Increases in the number of hogs and pigs on farms were shown in nearly all States, with sharp increases in the Southern States. Slaughter of 74 million head of hogs in 1955 was nearly 10 million head larger than the number slaughtered in 1954.

CATTLE: The number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, 1956 is estimated at 97,465,000 head--a new all-time high. This is about 1 percent or 873,000 head above the previous record a year earlier and about 16 percent more than the 1945-54 average of 84,040,000 head. The total inventory value of all cattle and calves on farms and ranches at 8.6 billion dollars was slightly above a year earlier, but 13 percent less than the 10-year average.

HOGS: Hog numbers on farms January 1, 1956 are estimated at 55,088,000 head. This is 9 percent more than the revised estimate of 50,474,000 head a year earlier, but 3 percent less than the 1945-54 average. Hogs under 6 months of age on farms January 1, 1956 numbered 33,520,000 head or 12 percent above the 29,906,000 on farms a year earlier. The number of market hogs over 6 months old (excluding sows) on January 1 at 12,668,000 was 10 percent larger than a year earlier. Total value of all hogs on hand January 1 was 977 million dollars--37 percent less than a year ago. Lower prices more than offset the increase in hog numbers.

SHEEP: Stock sheep on farms and ranches January 1, 1956 are estimated at 27,009,000 head, only slightly less than the 27,137,000 head a year ago. All sheep and lambs, including those on feed, totaled 31,109,000 head on January 1, 1956--a decrease of 1 percent from a year earlier. Stock sheep numbers on January 1, 1956 were about 45 percent below the all-time record set January 1, 1942. Total value of stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches January 1, 1956 was 385 million dollars--down 4 percent from a year ago and 19 percent below the 1945-54 average.

GOATS: The number of goats in Texas on January 1, 1956 is estimated at 2,775,000 head, 9 percent above the 2,546,000 head a year ago. The kid crop was considerably larger, while deaths were slightly higher and slaughter remained about the same as in 1955. Texas goats were valued at 19.4 million dollars on January 1 this year compared with 14.0 million dollars a year ago.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY ON FARMS, JANUARY 1, 1950-56, FOR THE UNITED STATES
(Thousand head)

Year	Cattle	Cows 2 yrs. + for milk 1/	Hogs	Stock sheep	Horses and mules	Chickens	Turkeys
1950....	77,963	23,853	58,937	26,182	7,781	456,549	5,124
1951....	82,083	23,568	62,269	27,251	7,036	430,988	5,037
1952....	88,072	23,060	62,117	27,944	6,150	426,555	5,725
1953....	94,241	23,549	51,755	27,593	5,403	398,158	5,086
1954....	95,679	23,896	45,114	27,079	4,791	396,776	4,956
1955....	96,592	23,462	50,474	27,137	4,309	390,708	4,917
1956....	97,465	23,318	55,088	27,009	3,962	382,218	4,892

1/ Included in all cattle.

LIVESTOCK, BY CLASSES, JANUARY 1, 1950-56, FOR THE UNITED STATES
(Thousand head)

Class	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Cattle and calves.....	77,963	82,083	88,072	94,241	95,679	96,592	97,465
Kept for milk	35,455	35,398	35,235	35,921	36,161	35,361	34,877
Cows 2 yrs. & older.	23,853	23,568	23,060	23,549	23,896	23,462	23,318
Heifers 1 to 2 yrs..	5,394	5,493	5,694	5,893	5,873	5,786	5,492
Heifer calves.....	6,208	6,337	6,481	6,479	6,392	6,113	6,067
Other cattle.....	42,508	46,685	52,837	58,320	59,518	61,231	62,588
Cows 2 yrs. and older	16,743	18,526	20,863	23,291	25,050	25,659	25,758
Heifers 1 to 2 yrs...	4,754	5,122	5,971	6,535	6,365	6,514	6,293
Calves.....	12,516	14,319	15,829	17,440	17,978	18,785	19,106
Steers 1 yr. & older	6,805	7,029	8,400	9,147	8,229	8,444	9,644
Bulls 1 yr. & older.	1,690	1,689	1,774	1,907	1,896	1,829	1,787
Sheep and lambs.....	29,826	30,633	31,982	31,900	31,356	31,582	31,109
On feed.....	3,644	3,382	4,038	4,307	4,277	4,445	4,100
Stock sheep.....	26,182	27,251	27,944	27,593	27,079	27,137	27,009
Lambs.....	5,017	5,667	5,876	4,808	4,464	4,722	4,516
Ewe.....	3,908	4,521	5,049	3,966	3,641	3,982	3,842
Wether and ram.....	1,109	1,146	827	842	823	740	674
1 yr. and older.....	21,165	21,584	22,068	22,785	22,615	22,415	22,493
Ewes.....	20,057	20,446	20,952	21,648	21,471	21,321	21,439
Rams.....	790	823	842	873	868	860	842
Wethers.....	318	315	274	264	276	234	212
Hogs and pigs.....	58,937	62,269	62,117	51,755	45,114	50,474	55,088
Under 6 months.....	31,704	34,186	34,197	28,861	26,272	29,906	33,520
6 months and older...	27,233	28,083	27,920	22,894	18,842	20,568	21,568
Sows and gilts.....	10,248	10,452	9,395	7,845	8,420	9,024	8,924
Others.....	16,985	17,631	18,525	15,049	10,422	11,544	12,644
POULTRY ON FARMS							
Chickens.....	456,549	430,988	426,555	398,158	396,776	390,708	382,218
Hens.....	137,014	141,178	135,814	135,411	115,840	111,376	121,527
Pullets.....	286,759	258,160	261,420	237,602	255,130	257,219	238,169
Others.....	32,776	31,650	29,321	25,145	25,806	22,113	22,522

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
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WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 127

Salable receipts of cattle at most terminals were 10 to 15% smaller than a week previous and moderately below a year ago. However, continued slowness in the trade for steer and heifer beef tended to offset efforts on the part of sellers to advance live prices. In fact, declines of 50¢-$1.00 or more featured trade at Denver and Los Angeles early in the week with part of the decline recovered later. At other Western terminals, price trend on steers and heifers was mostly steady to strong, instances 50¢ higher at Portland and Spokane. Outlet for cows, vealers and calves was fairly broad at steady to 50¢ higher prices. Stockers and feeders were weak to 50¢ lower at Los Angeles, fleshy steers over 750# 50¢-$1.00 lower at Denver, with prices mostly steady at other terminals. Barrows and gilts declined 50¢-$1.50. Slaughter lambs advanced 50¢-$1.00 at Denver, selling 50¢ or more lower in the Imperial Valley, with prices mostly steady at other terminal markets.

Choice slaughter steers under 1275# brought $17.00-19.50 at public markets, a load of 900# steers reaching $20.00 at Los Angeles, high-Choice 1070# at Denver $20.50. Good steers bulked from $14.50-17.50. Choice heifers brought $16.00-17.50, few $17.50-18.50 at Los Angeles and Denver, Good heifers $14.00-16.00. A few Choice and Prime vealers sold from $28.00-30.00, bulk Choice $22.00-27.00; slaughter calves of the same grade $17.00-23.00; Good calves and vealers $16.00-20.00. Good and Choice stock steer calves brought $18.00-22.00 at Denver but stopped at $19.50 at Far West markets. Good and Choice stocker and feeder steers bulked from $15.00-17.00; same grades heifers $14.00-15.50.

Choice fed steers sold direct out of feedlots from $17.50-19.00, 15 loads high yielding 900-1000# $19.50-19.75, a load or more $20.00; Good steers $16.00-17.50. Numerous loads and lots of stock steer calves sold in Nevada from $19.00-19.50, load around 400# in Oregon $18.50, the heifer end at $15.50. One lot of 150 head of 400# yearling steers out of Mexico brought $17.00; 400-500# heifer calves out of Arizona $14.00; two loads Medium and Good 650# yearlings in Montana $15.60. One string 500 Oregon stock cows moved to Nevada at $125.00 per head and 701 head of New Mexico cows moved to California at $90.00 per head.

180-240#

U. S. No. 1 to 3 barrows and gilts brought $14.25-15.50 at Portland; $14.00-14.80 at Spokane; $14.75-15.00 at Stockton; $13.50-15.00 at Los Angeles; $14.25 at South San Francisco; $13.50-14.25 at Ogden and $12.75-14.25 at Denver. Choice and Prime 96-112# wooled slaughter lambs sold at Denver from $19.25-20.00, few Prime 84# Southdowns $21.00; Good-Choice $18.50-19.00. In the Far West, Good and Choice wooled slaughter lambs brought $17.50-19.25, some up to $20.50 at South San Francisco; fall shorn $18.00-19.25.